

FEATURE

John Alvarez del Castillo: Nature as a Second Language

Joe H. Zerbey VI

Longview is a place where residents can find many pastimes, whether it be reading, playing word games, puzzle games, or partaking in one of our many recreation events. Some of our most popular gatherings are hosted by none other than local horticulturist, John Alvarez. He has captivated many of us with his expansive knowledge of plant and animal life, as well as his vast collection of said plants and animals. Being the naturally inquisitive and curious sort, John greatly enjoys events where he is permitted to show off creatures he finds himself bringing onto campus. It's all thanks to the residents of Longview that John is met with nigh endless ways to continue learning. Although he is often the teacher, there are many occasions where his events result in he, himself, learning something as well. When a group of inquisitive minds come together, everyone's



John and his
trusty dog, Argus

unique perspectives and experiences make for excellent material when it comes to discovering new things! For those that frequent John's programs, you no doubt have some knowledge of his past and why he is such a passionate nature enthusiast. Regardless, I wanted to conduct a small interview with him, to get some insight as to why he is so interested in plants and animals, and what he enjoys most about being able to share his passion with the residents of Longview. As always, he was simply a joy to chat with.

Interview:

Question #1 – How did you first become interested in studying plants and animals?

Answer: “Never thought about it. I was always interested. Even when I was a little kid. My parents would lose me whenever we went to the store. They would always find me at the pet section. I remember Woolworth's where they had fish and canaries. I got my first pet canary in second grade. I picked this orange one, his name was Charlie. I remember before I got him, my father made me go to the library and do all the canary care research, which was his mistake, because I came up with a list of everything that needed no matter the expense. So, when we went to the store, I had a big list of everything Charlie needed.”

Question #2 – What is your favorite aspect of hosting events at Longview?

Answer: “I like it when people ask questions. I like how informal it is. People want to be there and if they have a little anecdote to throw in, they do. People seem to appreciate the programs.”

Question #3 – Do you learn something new as a result of these events?

Answer: “I learn something new every time I talk to somebody. Even if I think I know about it already, I always have something to research or look up. Somebody who comes to my program may be an expert and share an anecdote that would show me something new. We have so many experts right here in the building. They open their mouths and then I learn something new. I learn something every time there is an event.”

Question #4 – Do you have any favorite plants and animals?

Answer: “Whoever I’m holding right now. Whichever animal I’m dealing with. I love them all. That’s why I adopt.”

Question #5 – What helps you decide what programs to do?

Answer: “I decide what to do for a program based on either the time of year or what shows up, like a friend of mine had goats. In the spring time I’ll do events on how to start plants. I did a spider program because I saw a huge spider walking across the parking lot.”



John’s ability to find importance in every organism he comes across was inspiring, because it shows even the smallest of creatures have their place, and – in many ways – are no less impressive than human beings. Whether it is a bird, a fish, or bug, life in all its shapes and sizes is something to be preserved, studied and cherished. Thank you, John, for continuing to share your knowledge with us. We look forward to your future programs and anecdotes.

Please feel free to provide feedback on this newsletter’s contents to either myself at jzerbey@longviewwithaca.org or Christina Sterling at csterling@longviewwithaca.org. We want to keep the newsletter relevant, fun and to the liking of all those who read it. Thank you again for your support.

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE NEWS

Preachers for February:

February 4 - Brooke Newell

February 11 - Pastor Geri Judd, Newfield United Methodist Church

February 18 - Pastor Ben Hogben, Caroline Center Community Church

February 25 - Ms. Jamie Breedlove, St. Paul's United Methodist Church

"Stretch Your Spirit"

Back by popular demand, Pamela Goddard will lead meditation to harp music on Wednesday, February 21, at 3 pm in the auditorium. For more information, contact Brooke Newell, Spiritual Life Coordinator.

Friday, February 2 - 4 pm, Shabbat worship in the Chapel led by Ithaca College Hillel.

New Study Begins February 14

Join us in the interfaith chapel on Wednesdays starting February 14, 10:30 am, as we explore Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem by Biblical scholar Marcus Borg.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 14 begins the Christian season of Lent, a time of spiritual preparation for Easter. There will be a service in the Chapel at 2 pm to receive ashes on your hand or forehead as a symbol of commitment to observing a holy Lenten season. For more information, contact Brooke Newell, Spiritual Life Coordinator.

Pianists Needed

Are you available to play Christian hymns periodically for our Wednesday 3:45 pm hymn sing or our Sunday 2:30 pm worship service? If you are willing to take a turn, please let Brooke Newell, Spiritual Life Coordinator, know.

RECREATION

Longview Social Club – Thursday, February 8 at 6:15PM

Elaine Dedics (Lu and Ron Poley's daughter) will be hosting a Longview Social Club the third Thursday of every month! Come and make Valentine's Day decorations on 2/8!

Special Dates:

Friday, February 2 – Groundhog Day
Saturday, February 10 – Chinese New Year

Wednesday, February 14 – Ash
Wednesday/Valentines Day
Monday, February 19 – Presidents' Day

Events & Entertainment:

- 2/2 – Coffee with Cheryl
- 2/2 – Shabbat Services with IC Hillel
- 2/5 – Art Talk: Six Photographers Who Made a Difference with Carol Hockett
- 2/9 – Brain Builders & Baking with Ithaca College Students
- 2/11 – Student Piano Concert
- 2/11 – Superbowl Viewing Party: San Fransisco 49ers vs Kansas City Chiefs
- 2/12 – AL/EAL Resident Council Meeting
- 2/13 – Mardi Gras Pancake Race
- 2/13 – Music with the Fortnight Singers
- 2/14 – Ash Wednesday Service
- 2/14 – Valentine's Day Dance
- 2/16 – February Birthday Party with Bob Lyna
- 2/20 – Food Committee Meeting
- 2/21 – Building Committee Meeting
- 2/21 – Stretch Your Spirit: Meditation & Harp with Pamela Goddard
- 2/22 – Garden & Grounds Committee Meeting
- 2/22 – IC Speaker: Mental Health is your Ally, The Intersection of LGBTQ
- 2/26 – Recreation Committee Meeting
- 2/29 – IC Speaker: How Extended Studies Leads to Lifelong Learning

SPECIAL BULLETIN!



FREE TAX PREP

Federal and New York State returns

LIFELONG 119 West Court Street, Ithaca
(additional parking off Buffalo St.)

TRUMANSBURG Ulysses Philomathic Library

DRYDEN Southworth Library

All Seniors age 60+ (with spouses of any age)

All Individuals with disabilities or Limited English Proficiency

Families with incomes below \$64,000

Note that some complex returns may not qualify

Returns prepared by IRS trained and certified volunteers

Appointments available **January 30 through April 13**

To schedule an appointment:

607-279-3741

Call and leave a voicemail **or**
send a **Text** with your name and phone number

Taxpayers aged 60+ or whose return we completed last year may request an appointment beginning January 8

All eligible taxpayers may request an appointment beginning February 12

See our website www.tclifelong.org for more information and for contact-free and no cost self-prep options

The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program is sponsored by a grant from the Internal Revenue Service with additional funding from Lifelong, the Tompkins County Office for the Aging, and the Park Foundation

commence around the circle. More details to come on this event in coming weeks. Next, Longview Dining will be participating in the **Mac and Cheese Bowl on Wednesday, May 3rd at the Ithaca Farmer's Market.** This is Food Net Meals on Wheels annual fundraiser which is not only a delicious event but a fun one, as well. Marketing and Sales also enjoys setting up a table and taking advantage of talking about our community to the hundreds of passersby.

Beginning in March we will be hosting a monthly Wellness Series which will be held in the Auditorium. Each month we'll be scheduling presenters from Cayuga Medical Center, Cornell, Ithaca College, and various non-profit and private practice professionals and practitioners to share their expertise on topics related to wellness and the older adult. Topics will include but are not limited to brain health, bone health, nutrition, audiology/hearing loss, massage therapy, music therapy, holistic practices, mental health and many more. Our first program will be Friday, March 1st at 1:30 pm. All programs are open to residents as well as community members and future residents. Programs will continue to be held on the first Friday of each month. If you have any questions, you can contact either Kim Owen at 607-375-6360 or by email at kowen@longviewithaca.org or Bree Nash at 607-375-6335 or by email at bnash@longviewithaca.org

Just a few reminders...

Resident Referral Program: New guidelines for the program were delivered in December and if you'd like another copy, you can ask any one of us in Marketing and Sales. This is a great way to pick your own neighbors.

Guest Apartments: Keep Longview in mind when scheduling your next visit with a

MARKETING AND SALES

Kim Owen

With Spring right around the corner, we are looking forward to some of the community events we enjoy participating in together with our residents and families as well as putting the spotlight on some great causes.

First up, Team Ithaca College/Longview Partnership will be holding the **Alzheimer's Mini Walk** on **Friday, April 19th** here on the Longview campus. As in past years we'd like to hold it near to the Patio Home neighborhood where the Walk can

friend or relative. Our guest apartments are available for nightly rental and can be reserved by calling our office. We offer a fully furnished one bedroom for \$135 per night and a studio for \$105 per night. Meals are not included but guests are welcome to visit our dining room for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Also, all amenities are available for their use within the Longview community.

Lastly, please welcome your new neighbors. Longview welcomed five new residents this month with more already scheduled to move in in February, March and April.

TIDBITS

Ethel Cratsley Has turned 99! A most wonderful number for a wonderful person!



MAINTENANCE/OPERATIONS

Jason Kirk

Longview is currently interviewing for the **Maintenance Supervisor** position. We have also recently hired on new housekeepers, bringing us up to a total of five housekeeping staff members.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 3rd - James (Jim) Evans (103)
February 4th - Shirley Livingstone (341)
February 4th - Barbara Lee (PH 131)
February 7th - Joann Erb (423)
February 10th - Alison Maceli (PH 121)
February 10th - Amalia Tio (6)
February 12th - Stephanie Thomas (325)
February 15th - Karen Cariddi (300)
February 17th - Joanna (Sunny) Kuskin (353)
February 17th - Barbara Wernham (PH 138)
February 19th - Hong Rumney (354)
February 24th - Ruth Allen (323)

NEW RESIDENTS

Virginia Byrant (Room 233c) – **Feb 2nd**
Jim Evans (Room 103C)
Hal and Gloria Vatland (Room 333C) –
April 15th
Joe Haines (Room 351D) – **Jan 26th**
Diane Kelley (Room 434) – **Feb 1st**
James Reed (Room 329C) – **Moved In!**

NEW HIRES

Yazmeena Rivera - Aide
Cierra Tarby - Aide
Jeanetta Payne – Housekeeper

IC PARTNERSHIP

Angela Darling

IC Speaker Series:

Thursday, February 29th at 6:30pm

Eric Machan Howd: All About the Office of Extended Studies!

Meditation on Monday's

Starting: 1/29 from 3:15-3:45pm with Mary Ann Erickson in the Chapel

Ithaca Community Aphasia Network!

Starting: February 5th, 2024

When: Mondays, 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Where: Ithaca College, Center for Health Sciences Building, Room 213

Coffee and tea will be provided!

Aphasia is the loss of language typically resulting from a stroke or brain injury or progressive disease. The aphasia support group allows participants to talk, share experiences, and offer support to one another. For more information, please contact: **Sherry Golden, M.S., CCC-SLP**
Email: sgolden@ithaca.edu

Please contact Bree Nash at Bnash@longviewwithaca.org or Angela

Darling at Adarling@ithaca.edu with any interest or questions.

Contributors

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EXTRAS



Jim Reed joins the Walking Group and Residents are visited by Pickles the friendly little lamb!

